

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 DPW-01 EUR-10

PRS-01 RSR-01 /070 W

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R 121149Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12583

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 11 INFO SSAG NKP THAILAND
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 277

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR3 SITREP-11 JULY 1973

1. MR3 G-2 REPORTED INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE
48 HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 JULY 11. TWENTY INCIDENTS WERE
REPORTED IN THE FIRST 24 HOURS AND ANOTHER 18 IN THE LAST 24
HOURS, FOR A TOTAL OF 38. OF THESE, FOUR WERE MAJOR ATTACKS
BY FIRE (OVER 20 ROUNDS), 14 MINOR ABF'S , ONE COMBINED GROUND/
FIRE ATTACK NE OF PHU GIAO, EIGHT GROUND ATTACKS, NINE MINING/
GRENADE DETONATIONS (INCLUDING ONE CIVILIAN), ONE ATTEMPTED
LOC INTERDICTION AGAINST ONG CO BRIDGE, 7 KMS NW PHU CUONG
(THE SECOND UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS) AND
ONE CIVILIAN ASSASSINATION BY SMALL ARMS IN HIEU THIEN DISTRICT,
TAY NINH. RVNAF LOSSES FOR THE 48 HOURS WERE NINE KIA AND 31
WIA (TO INCLUDE ONE CIVILIAN KILLED BY GRENADE DETONATION
AND ONE NATIONAL POLICEMAN SHOT BY VC/NVA ASSASSINS). ONE RIVER
PATROL BOAT WAS 40 PERCENT DAMAGED BY B40 FIRE JULY 9, 7 KMS
SE BEN LUC IN LONG AN PROVINCE. KNOWN COMMUNIST LOSSES FOR
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THE SAME PERIOD WERE FOUR KIA, 32 KBA (REPORTED BY 1ST BN,

9TH ARVN RGT, 6 TO 9 KMS NE PHU GIAO), FOUR AK-47'S AND ONE K54 PISTOL. THREE VC/NVA RALLIED TO THE GVN IN THE PAST 48 HOURS, ONE EACH IN HAU NGHIA, PHUOC LONG AND LONG KHANH PROVINCES. FOUR RECENT ARVN POWS ALSO ESCAPED FROM COMMUNIST DETENTION CAMPS AND RETURNED TO GVN CONTROL IN TAY NINH.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONCENTRATED DURING THE PAST 48 HOURS IN BINH DUONG, WITH 12 CLASHES TAKING PLACE, ALL A SHORT DISTANCE NE OF PHU GIAO IN THE VICINITY OF LTL 1A (WE WILL REPORT MORE DETAILS SEPTTEL). PHUOC LONG HAD FIVE INCIDENTS, TAY NINH, FIVE INCIDENTS-FOUR ON JULY 10, AND LONG KHANH, THREE INCIDENTS-ALL OCCURRING ON JULY 10. OTHER MILITARY CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN LONG AN (2), BINH LONG (1), AND PHUOC TUY (1). MINING/GRENADE DETONATIONS REPORTED IN THE TWO DAY PERIOD WERE IN GIA DINH (4, THREE ON JULY 10), BIEN HOA (2, ONE BY A GVN CIVILIAN), HAU NGHIA (1), LONG AN (1) AND PHUOC TUY (1). CASUALTIES AS A RESULT OF THESE MININGS/GRENADES WERE THREE KILLED, TO INCLUDE ONE CIVILIAN, AND NINE RVNAF WOUNDED OF THE TOTAL CASUALTIES REPORTED.

3. MR3 LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN JULY 10 THAT ONE VNAF HELICOPTER HAD LANDED AT TONLE CHAM RANGER BASE EVENING JULY 9 WITH THREE REPLACEMENT TROOPS AND 500 KILOS OF SUPPLIES, AND TAKEN OUT TEN PERSONNEL--FIVE WOUNDED RANGERS, THREE NVA POW'S A RANGER DISCIPLINE CASE, AND A 50-YEAR OLD RANGER READY FOR RETIREMENT. ANOTHER HELICOPTER ATTEMPTING TO LAND THERE WAS DRIVEN OFF BY COMMUNIST ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. LTG MINH SAID HE HOPED TO COMPLETE ROTATION OF ENTIRE RANGER BATTALION AT TONLE CHAM BY JULY 25, THOUGH THIS DEPENDS ON THE WEATHER AS WELL AS COMMUNIST OPPOSITION.

4. A CONGEN LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE REPORTS THAT A BUDDING POST-CEASE-FIRE II ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN OPPOSING LOCAL COMMANDERS HAS APPARENTLY BEEN BROKEN UP BY PROVINCE CHIEF COL. LUU YEM AND REQUIREMENTS OF ROAD-CLEARING OPERATION ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14. IT IS SAID THAT IN FIRST FEW DAYS AFTER CEASE FIRE, LOCAL COMMUNIST COMMANDER (UNIT NOT IDENTIFIED) CONTACTED 73RD RANGER BN CO, A MAJOR TU, TO SET UP MEETING AT WHICH THEY EXCHANGED FOOD AND AGREED TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES. COL. YEM CAUGHT WIND OF IT AND ORDERED THE 73RD TO CONDUCT OPERATION AGAINST THEIR NEW COMMUNIST FRIENDS, BUT MAJ. TU OPERATED ELSEWHERE. COL YEM THEN ORDERED 73RD TO PARTICIPATE IN CLEARING OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14, AND

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MAJ TU COMPLIED. WE HAVE NO REPORT THAT COL. YEM HAS DISCIPLINED MAJ. TU, AND MR3 CG LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN MORNING OF JULY 11 THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD OF INCIDENT, WHICH HE SAID "COULD NOT HAPPEN" BECAUSE ALL COMMANDERS ARE UNDER ORDERS TO REPORT ANY SUCH COMMUNIST CONTACT IMMEDIATELY TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS.

5. CANADIAN SAIGON SOURCE CLOSE TO AMBASSADOR GAUVIN, IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL EVENING JULY 10, CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION, REPORTED IN JULY 9 SITREP, THAT GAUVIN HAS INSTRUCTED

ALL CANDELS TO KEEP MOUTHS SHUT ABOUT CURRENT ICCS SEARCH FOR
TWO CANDELS HELD BY PRG. BASIC REASON FOR THIS POLICY, SO
UNCHARACTERISTIC OF CANDEL "OPEN MOUTH" APPROACH TO ICCS
MATTERS, IS REQUEST OF PRG, WHO, WHILE PUBLICLY DENOUNCING
MAKING CANDELS FOR "SPYING FOR ARVN", ARE APPEALING PRIVATELY TO
GAUVIN TO COOL HIS OWN PUBLIC RHETORIC IN ORDER NOT TO CREATE
DIFFICULTIES IN THE SEARCH. SAME SOURCE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR
GAUVIN, IRASCIBLE EVEN UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS, IS BECOMING
INCREASINGLY SO BECAUSE OF PRG TACTICS WITH REGARD TO MISSING
CANDELS,
FACT THAT THIS CRISIS HAS FORCED HIM TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE FROM VIET

NAM, AND A SERIOUS EAR INFECTION. SIGNED WALKINSH
UNQUOTE APPLING

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